

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Busy Week at the State's Capital City

MANY MEASURES PROPOSED

Law-Makers Grinding Away—Disposition to Economize—Some Proposed Bills

After a quiet Sunday, the legislative machinery at the state capital began to move again on Monday. It has been a busy week and many new bills have been introduced.

The first new bill to reach the reading clerk of the house after the call of the roll of counties commenced, was one by Mr. Hurt-enbach, of Escambia county, for the furnishing of school books the furnishing of school free books for the use of children whose parents or guardians are not able to purchase them.

A bill which caused cold chills to course down the spine of certain persons when it was read, by its title, was one by Mr. Pruitt, of Leon county. It provides for the cutting off of one of the three registration books now sent out to each of the 1,000 registration precincts in the state, and is intended to save \$500 every time a state registration is required, as the third book is not used.

Amongst other bills that have been introduced are the following: Gal. No. 14—Legislature news; New railroad.

By Mr. Williams of Pasco—Authorizing county boards of public instruction to establish and maintain home demonstration work including canning clubs.

By Mr. Davidson of Santa Rosa—For the creation of Pine county, in the state of Florida, and for the organization and government thereof.

By Mr. Griffin of Orange—Regulating the sizes of boxes for field purposes to be used by packers of oranges, grapefruit and lemons in the purchase of said fruit from growers, and describing the size and construction thereof to be known as the standard field box.

By Mr. Martin of Hillsborough—To give to merchants or other persons furnishing any supplies to laborers or moneys for the payment of laborers or any turpentine operators, saw mill operators, phosphate miner or other person or persons conducting any business employing any laborers, the lien given by law to such laborer and to subordinate merchants furnishing supplies or persons, firm or corporation furnishing money to the laborers, servants of employees of such operator or person to the rights of such laborers to whom such moneys or supplies providing a remedy enforcing same, and repealing laws conflicting with the provisions of this act.

By Mr. Martin of Hillsborough—To prescribe the compensation of county officers, the manner in which they shall be paid; to require them to file statements of receipts and disbursements of funds and to provide for the disposition to be made of fees collected by such officers in excess for their compensation, and to fix penalties for the violation of certain provisions of this act.

By Mr. Handley of Lafayette—providing for the nomination of members of county commissioners of the several counties of the state of Florida in primary elections, and also for the nomination of members of the boards of pub-

TO INTEREST PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

National Effort to Improve Teaching on Consumption and to Help Family Doctors

For the purpose of securing more co-operation from physicians and nurses in the antituberculosis campaign, The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis has inaugurated a movement to bring the importance of this subject to the attention of these two groups, according to an announcement made from headquarters recently.

Among the first things which the Association is trying to do is to induce the medical colleges and schools of nursing to give more instruction, particularly of a clinical nature, on tuberculosis. An effort will be made also to reach the individual practitioners and nurses by special booklets prepared for this purpose. The clinical and other facilities of the various organizations affiliated with the National Association will so far as possible be made available for the widest possible use in training doctors and nurses in tuberculosis work.

"The object of this campaign," says Dr. Charles J. Hatfield, Executive Secretary of the National Association in making the announcement, "is primarily to secure more accurate and earlier diagnosis of tuberculosis on the part of physicians and to show nurses the great opportunities of service in the home care of consumptives. We shall also be able to put the average family physician in touch with the best methods of treating tuberculosis and with the most recent literature on that subject, thereby affording to the general public increased protection from this disease. Practically all the medical colleges and schools of nursing of the country have expressed their approval of our plan and have offered to co-operate with us. While the medical profession generally has unselfishly assisted the nation-wide campaign against this disease, we feel because of its prevalence, tuberculosis should be given special attention by medical students and practicing physicians everywhere. No other single disease demands so much time and attention from the general practitioner in medicine. We shall try to make it easy for any doctor or nurse to acquire a specialized knowledge of tuberculosis."

lie instruction of the several counties of the state of Florida.

In the senate among the important bills introduced is one by Senator Farris, of Duval county, abolishing hanging for capital offenses. The murderously inclined will not be able to get very much satisfaction out of his bill, however, for he only substitutes electrocution for hanging. The bill is the same as the one introduced in the house last Saturday by Mr. Harrison of Duval county. Senator McGrady, Santa Rosa county, introduced a bill which proposes to cut his county in twain and make Pine county out of the north half.

Senator Cooper introduced a bill empowering counties, special road and bridge districts, municipalities and other public corporations and districts to construct maintain and operate drawbridges and to charge toll for the use of drawbridges. This bill is the same as one introduced in the house by Mr. Wilson of Manatee.

Something must be done to lower the high cost of elections.

LEGISLATION PROPOSED THAT VITALLY AFFECTS ONE OF STATE'S MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES

An Authoritative Statement Showing that General Laws Do Not Accomplish What they are Intended to Accomplish. Will Cripple the Fishing Business in Florida and Work a Hardship on those Depending on it for a Livelihood.

One of the most important industries of Florida is vitally affected by several of the bills that it is sought to get enacted into law at this session of the legislature. If they become laws, the industry will be seriously handicapped if not crippled, as severe hardship will be worked on the hundreds of people dependent upon the industry and what it is desired to accomplish will not be accomplished. The following is the substance of an authoritative statement relating to the subject, and shows the unreasonableness of enacting the proposed general laws when they will fall short of their purpose:

From a Letter Addressed to the Members of the Legislature by the Punta Gorda Fish Dealers

There has been considerable agitation of fish measures by various protective associations and organizations of this State, proposing measures for your Honorable Body to legislate upon and pass, apparently for the protection of one of the greatest industries of the State. Taking the figures compiled by the organizations that are active in the matter, there are something like sixty thousand people depending upon the fish industry for a livelihood, and the annual income from this source (money brought into the State) amounts to ten million dollars. This money comes almost entirely from other states. The fishing industry of Florida also represents an investment in boats, nets, packing houses and fish apparatus of something like six million dollars. Yet these protective organizations propose a bill to stop fishing, stop the bringing into the State of Florida of ten millions of dollars annually, stop the taxation by town, county and state of six million dollars worth of taxable property for a period of five years. We see no reason for any such law.

Another proposed bill is to license each fisherman, each net and each boat that fishes. We would like to ask why the fisherman and his net and boat should pay a special tax or license to catch fish belonging to the world. We do not see how ownership, which is proposed in another bill, could be claimed for migratory fish that in September are on the North Carolina coast, in October off the East Coast of Southern Florida, and are in November off the West coast of Florida, and later, during the spring, off the coasts of Alabama, Louisiana and Texas. The taxation or licensing of these fishermen would be just as sensible as licensing a farmer, his mowing machine or plough, and his horse to work his cotton, corn or tobacco, or any of the pursuits along that line. He pays a tax on his horse and wagon to the state and to the county, so does the fisherman. The fish dealers of the State of Florida pay taxes a great deal larger in proportion to capital invested than those engaged in any other pursuit in the state. In some of these proposed measures gill nets used in catching mullet are to be taxed five dollars each. These nets cost from ten dollars to fifteen dollars each, which makes from thirty-three and one third to fifty per cent. taxation on the original cost. Is there any other industry in the State of Florida taxed to that extent?

In one proposed measure the size of gill nets for mullet is to be three inches stretched material north of latitude 29 degrees North and three and one half inches stretched material south of latitude 29 degrees North. It is not known here what size mullet the people north of latitude 29 degrees North catch. This proposed measure may have been drawn up by some one who is investigating and measuring the mullet north of this latitude but it can hardly be that proper investigation was made for the size of fish caught south of this latitude. From Gasparilla Pass to Chokoloskee, a distance of something like one hundred and fifty miles, from two to three distinct sizes of mullet are caught that are mature and full grown. So if this proposed measure goes through, it will cripple the industry in this locality very materially.

It seems that there are already on the statutes of the State of Florida more laws for the protection of fish than the officers of the state can enforce. There are a good many that are not a protection to the industry, and in order to enact proper measures for the protection of fish each fishing locality should be visited by competent experts and laws made pertaining only to that locality in order to have protective measures for the fish of our state. It is impossible for the Legislators to properly make laws for the protection of the fishing industry of the State of Florida unless they have expert advice from each locality where the fishing industry is carried on. Laws governing the fish in South Florida do not at all protect those fish in the Northern part of the state. It is foolish to make laws here for the protection of red snapper and relating to red snapper vessels for Pensacola. It would be foolish for the people of Apalachicola and Carrabelle to attempt to make laws pertaining to the mackerel industry for the waters lying between Miami and Key West.

The fish dealers of the State of Florida and all the fishermen are dependant on the fish industry for a livelihood; therefore, they have the protection of fish most at heart and feel that measures should be enacted by the Legislature that are sanctioned by the people thus directly and vitally affected.

One argument in regard to licensing fishermen, their boats and nets, is that the interior parts of Florida are not deriving benefits from this great industry of the state. Do the people of DeSoto, Lee, Dade and Monroe counties derive any benefit from the production of cotton and tobacco west of Jefferson county? Do the counties west of Jefferson derive any benefit from the phosphate mined in Hillsborough, DeSoto and Polk counties? If the people of the interior portions of Florida wish the benefit of the fish industry, they should necessarily live on the coast where the fish industry is carried on.

We implore your Honorable Body to let the fishermen make an honest living honestly rather than force measures upon them which are unreasonable and which they necessarily will have to break in order to make a living. At present the fishing industry has less graft and as much hard work as any industry or profession in the State of Florida.

Products of Florida Varied

The State of Florida now produces, in a small way, practically everything that is grown in any Northern state, with the possible exception of wheat. Wheat has been grown in small patches in this state, but has never been successfully grown that it promised

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DECREASE IN OUTPUT OF SANDLIME BRICK

European War Interferes with Building Activities and Checks Production in 1914

The condition of the sand-lime brick industry in the United States in 1914, according to figures gathered by the United States Geological Survey was, on the whole, not entirely satisfactory to the manufacturers, though in some states, notably in Florida and Indiana considerable progress was made. The year opened with good prospects for a prosperous season, and many operators reported that these prospects were in a fair way to be realized when conditions arising from the European war put a check to building activities, and from that time forward business was reported poor.

In 1914 the value of the output was \$1,058,512, a decrease in value of \$179,813 compared with 1913. Nine of the 23 states reporting marketed product in 1914 showed increase and 14 showed decrease in output. These increases and decreases were confined to one section of the country, as Florida, Indiana, South Dakota and Wisconsin showed the principal increase, and California, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington the largest decrease.

Michigan continues to be the leading state, the value of its product constituting more than 24 per cent of the total value of all sand-lime brick in 1914, and more than 25 per cent of the total in 1913. Minnesota was second in 1914, reporting 11.27 per cent of the total value, and displaced New York, which was third, with 10.17 per cent, of the total value.

The average price per thousand for common sand-lime brick was \$5.99 in 1914, compared with \$6.27 in 1913, \$6.46 in 1912, and \$6.09 in 1911. For front brick the average was \$9.08 in 1914 and \$10.61 in 1913.

The sand-lime brick industry has been established in the United States since 1901, when the first plant was started at Michigan City, Ind. Since that time it has passed through the various stages of a new industry. In the beginning it suffered severely from the "boomer," whose glittering promises to make brick for a few dollars a thousand that would sell in competition with high-grade clay face brick caused plants to be established for the manufacture of sand-lime brick without regard to market, transportation facilities, or even a supply of suitable material. Some plants constructed under these conditions never even attempted to market their product. Then came the natural reaction when the number of the plants and the value of the product decreased even more rapidly than commercial conditions would have seemed to warrant. Since that stage, within the last few years, the industry appears to have become firmly established and is now showing a reasonable growth.

Prof. T. Z. B. Everton, one of Punta Gorda's prominent educators, is in Arcadia today. Professor Everton and a number of Punta Gorda's young people will make up the cast which will present the very interesting play "Her Friend the Enemy," in the Arcadia opera house next Tuesday night.—Arcadia News, Apr. 17

TURKISH BOATS SUNK

Ran Into Mines at Entrance to Bosphorous

BRITISH DEFEAT REPORTED

Greece Dicker with Teutons King Constantine Sent Embassy to Berlin

London—The Russian fleet attacking the Bosphorous is reported to have accomplished the destruction of two Turkish torpedo boat destroyers. A Saloniki dispatch says the Russians mined the entrance to the Bosphorous while the Turkish fleet was cruising the Black sea and that two of the Turkish vessels sank when, on returning, they ran into the mine field.

Advices have been received in Berlin that a British expeditionary force which attempted to invade German East Africa was defeated and driven away with the loss of 700 men. The British force is said to have landed from cruisers and transports. The German losses are given as fifty-six. The only previous intimation of a British expedition to East Africa was given at the time of the sinking of the British steamer Falaba, when it was said that among her passengers were a number of British officers bound for Africa.

Italy's decision for or against war is said in Rome to be imminent. The Rome correspondent of a Paris newspaper said Tuesday marked the expiration of the time limit fixed by Italy for presentation of proposals by Austria. It generally is understood Austria has declined to make territorial concessions satisfactory to Italy and according to this report the German and Austrian ambassadors at Rome are preparing to leave.

Greece also is endeavoring to arrive at a fixed policy. A representative of King Constantine is on his way to Vienna and Berlin, presumably on a political mission. No intimation has been given as to the exact purpose of the mission although it is known that King Constantine, who is a brother-in-law of Emperor William, has set himself against the party which favors intervention by Greece on the side of the allies.

Conflicting Claims

London—Although the Germans' claims on the one hand and the British and French on the other are diametrically opposed regarding the outcome of the battle for Hill No. 60, southeast of Ypres and near the northern extremity of the British lines, the facts at hand indicate that this engagement was the most important along the British front since the battle of Neuve Chapelle and that it perhaps presages the expected general British activity in Flanders.

The British, whether or not they hold all the ground gained, undoubtedly still dominate a part of Zandforde ridge, a line of hills running southeast of Ypres and commanding the road from Ypres to Menin.

The losses in this fighting have not been announced but dispatches reaching London indicate they must have been considerable on both sides. The Germans declare the British shells containing asphyxiating gases and the British reply is that Germany first resorted to that means of warfare.

The Russians continue to hold their firm grip on the main chain of the Carpathians but news of decisive action is lacking.